

Flyin' West Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

Miss Leah, Sophie & Wil, Minnie & Frank, and Fannie are in the town of Nicodemus in Kansas in 1898 trying to start a new life in the west.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is when Frank loses his money in a gamble and becomes even more abusive to Minnie; Minnie is pregnant.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

Frank is a "passing" white man which is unique because even though he passes as a white man, he ends up losing his father's inheritance even though he was promised it. This also leads to his more abusive and alcoholic way.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Frank beat Minnie to death one day? Will Minnie escape Frank? Will the women kill Frank?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

The most theatrical moment of the conversation between Minnie and Frank.

The open dialogue between all the characters.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

When Minnie reveals that she is pregnant so Sophie can't kill Frank. This puts Minnie in a situation because she is stuck in a relationship with a man that is likely to beat her again because he is an alcoholic and has anger issues.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Domestic violence.

Slavery.

Sisterhood.

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Frank wants his inheritance, but his white brothers cut him off from it.

Sophie wants a better community in which black rise up, but she can't get them to think of the future instead of the present time.

Minnie wants Frank, but he is abusive.

Miss Leah wants to enjoy her freedom and independence, but she is old and this is hard for her to do.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The "Flyin' West" title in itself is an image. It tells of how slaves would go west to become freed persons. The way it is spelled also paints the picture of the dialect blacks had back then.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

All these ladies are not actual sisters, but through their alike stories, they consider each other sisters. Leah being the eldest is like the oldest sister caring for all. The others all support her and each other. Wil and Fannie are both shy and beat around the bush, but love each other. Minnie and Frank are married, but Frank is an abusive husband.